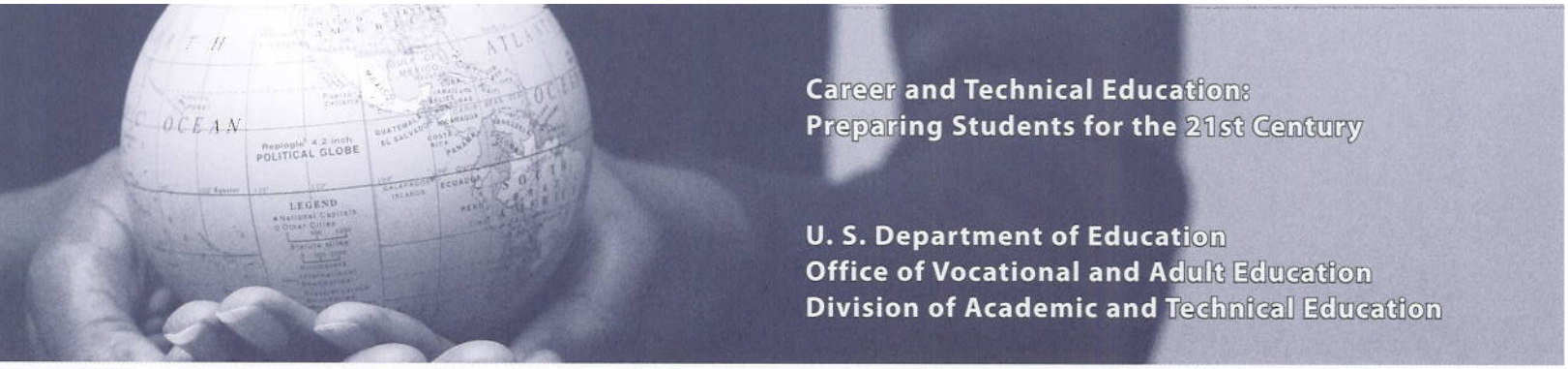

Career Guidance and Academic Advisement

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) authorizes states to use their leadership funds to improve their career guidance and academic counseling programs that assist students in making informed academic and career and technical education decisions. Among other things, these programs encourage secondary and postsecondary students to graduate with a diploma or degree, and expose students to high skill, high wage occupations and non-traditional career fields.

To this end, many states are implementing a comprehensive, standards-based guidance and counseling system (see inset). At the local level, this system helps schools provide academic and career planning that enables students to access and utilize information about postsecondary education and career options. This system also supports and informs parents and assists employers, K-12 education, postsecondary institutions, and communities engage students in the lifelong learning process of career decision-making.

Delivery System Components of a Comprehensive Guidance Program*

- **Guidance curriculum** – that includes lessons on topics such as conflict mediation, career and educational planning, and alcohol/drug abuse prevention.
- **Individual planning** – that helps students create meaningful career directions and organize their personal plans of study around their career goals.
- **Responsive services** – that help students who are experiencing problems that interfere with their success in school.
- **Systems support** – that allows guidance counselors and academic advisers sufficient time to carry out guidance program management and evaluation work, community collaboration, committee work, and required administrative tasks.

* Gysbers and Henderson (2000)

Reports and Tools You Can Use

- *Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN)* (http://www.cte.ed.gov) contains tools and resources for use by students, counselors, parents, teachers, and administrators, including: *The Career Decision-Making Tool*, the *National Career Development Guidelines*, the *Career Development Toolkit*, and the *Parent Brochures* (in Spanish and English).
- *America's Career InFoNet* (www.acinet.org/acinet/) contains wage and employment trends, occupational requirements, state-by-state labor market conditions, millions of employer contacts nationwide, and the most extensive career resource library online.
- *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (www.bls.gov/oco/) is a nationally recognized source of career information designed to provide valuable assistance to individuals making decisions about their future work lives.

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Web Sites
Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN): http://www.cte.ed.gov
American School Counselor Association: http://www.schoolcounselor.org
National Leadership Cadre: http://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/NLC
National Center for Transforming School Counseling: http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Transforming+School+Counseling/main